

Message Text

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ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05
CU-04 HA-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 TRSE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 /090 W
-----089653 030247Z /70-62

R 021618Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5231
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION GENEVA

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, ICFTU, EINV, SE
SUBJ: ICFTU ANTI-APARTHEID WEEK MARCH 13-21

REF: (A) STATE 51775, (B) 77 BRUSSELS 17124
(C) 77 BRUSSELS 754 (NOTAL), (D) 76 BRUSSELS 11605
(NOTAL)

1. THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU) HAS DESIGNATED MARCH 13-21 AS A "WEEK OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE AFRICAN WORKERS IN SOUTH AFRICA". THIS YEAR'S ANTI-APARTHEID CAMPAIGN, APPROVED AT AN ICFTU BOARD MEETING IN NOVEMBER (REF B), IS BEING LAUNCHED WITH LESS FANFARE THAN LAST YEAR'S, AND ALSO WITH LESS AMBITIOUS GOALS (REF C AND D).

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2. IN ITS CAMPAIGN LAST YEAR THE ICFTU SEPCIFICALLY CALLED FOR A "TOTAL CONSUMER BOYCOTT," GROUNDING OF SOUTH AFRICA-BOUND AIRCRAFT, AND BLOCKING OF SOUTH AFRICA-BOUND SHIPS, AND WHEN THE ACTIONS OF AFFILIATES FELL CONSIDERABLY SHORT OF THESE OBJECTIVES, SOME CONSIDERED THE WEEK A FAILURE. THIS YEAR'S CAMPAIGN, MORE REALISTICALLY, CONCENTRATES ON RALLIES AND PUBLIC RE-

LATIONS ACTIVITIES, WHICH ARE TARGETED ESPECIALLY AGAINST
MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES OPERATING IN SOUTH AFRICA.

3. ACCORDING TO ANDREW KAILEMBO, ICFTU AFRICA DESK
OFFICER, THERE MAY BE SOME SYMBOLIC WORK STOPPAGES--
PERHAPS IN HOLLAND AT UNILEVER AND PHILLIPS--BUT "INDUS-
TRIAL ACTION" WILL NOT BE A MAJOR PART OF THE CAMPAIGN.
A TYPICAL ACTIVITY: A DGB YOUTH RALLY ON MARCH 19 IN
DORTMUND, FEATURING SOUTH AFRICAN SINGER MIRIAM MAKEBA.

4. THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (WCL), HEADQUARTERED
HERE, HAS ALSO ANNOUNCED ITS SUPPORT FOR A WEEK OF ANTI-
APARTHEID ACTION MARCH 13 TO 20, AND SO HAS, WE ARE TOLD,
THE WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (WFTU), HEADQUARTERED
IN PRAGUE. BUT, AS THE ICFTU HAS STRESSED IN A CIRCULAR
LETTER TO AFFILIATES, ITS CAMPAIGN IS NOT A JOINT ONE
WITH THE WCL AND WFTU, EVEN THOUGH THESE "OTHER ORGANIZA-
TIONS HAVE JUMPED ON THE BANDWAGON" (IN THE WORDS OF
ICFTU GENERAL SECRETARY KERSTEN).

5. THE ICFTU IS PLEASED WITH THE RESOLUTION ON SOUTH
AFRICA ADOPTED FEBRUARY 24 BY THE AFL-CIO EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL (REF A). KAILEMBO CALLED IT "VERY STRONG AND VERY
HELPFUL," AND IS USING IT AS A MODEL OF THE KIND OF
POSITION THAT EUROPEAN ICFTU AFFILIATES OUGHT TO ADOPT.
IN FACT, WHILE USEC LABOR ATTACHE WAS IN HIS OFFICE
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MARCH 2, KAILEMBO IN A PHONE CONVERSATION WITH A MEMBER
OF THE BRITISH TUC STAFF QUOTED THE AFL-CIO RESOLUTION
AT LENGTH AND ALSO READ FROM A RECENT SOUTH AFRICAN NEWS-
PAPER ARTICLE THAT CRITICIZED AFL-CIO PRESIDENT MEANY
FOR THAT RESOLUTION. KAILEMBO CHIDED HIS CALLER TO GET THE
TUC TO BECOME "AS PROGRESSIVE AS GEORGE MEANY." HINTON

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 mar 1978
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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